

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6835

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: BOOK ON ISRAELI ESTABLISHMENT

REF: STATE 165362

1. "THE ESTABLISHMENT" BY ELIAHU SALPETER AND YUVAL ELIZUR, IN EMBASSY VIEW, IS USEFUL JOURNALISTIC EFFORT TO IDENTIFY BROAD RANGE OF INFLUENTIAL DECISION MAKERS IN ISRAELI SOCIETY WITHOUT PRETENSION OF SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY. INEVITABLY LIST OF 145 KEY FIGURES IS ARBITRARY AND CANNOT BE REGARDED IN ANY SENSE AS DEFINITIVE LIST. BOOK INCLUDES NOT ONLY POLITICAL LEADERS BUT ALSO CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY, THE MILITARY ELITE, KEY JEWISH PHILANTROPISTS OUTSIDE ISRAEL, AND EMERGING GENERATION OF TECHNOCRATS.

2. MAIN CONCLUSIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS. ISRAELI ELITE IS NOT BASED ON CLASS OR INHERITED WEALTH AND IS HIGHLY MOBILE. ITS COMPOSITION INCLUDES SEVERAL SUB-ELITES, SUCH AS MILITARY, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL ELITES, AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENT BETWEEN THEM. OLDER LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO PART WITH ITS POWER BUT NEW TECHNOLOGICAL ELITE IS GRADUALLY EMERGING. IN FUTURE, PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION WILL HAVE AS MUCH WEIGHT AS PARTY LOYALTY, OR MORE, IN DETERMINING ENTRANCE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT. ISRAELI SOCIETY WILL BE CHARACTERIZED BY INCREASING ECONOMIC CENTRALIZATION AND POLITICAL DECENTRALIZATION.

3. IN SALPETER-ELIZUR VIEW, MEMBERS OF THE ELITE ARE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS. THEY
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BELONG TO DECISION-MAKING BODIES; THEY HAVE THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS AND ARE WILLING TO USE THEM; THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO PUBLICIZE

THEIR VIEWS; THEY CAN EXERT INFLUENCE IN APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION OF THEIR SUBORDINATES AND SUPPORTERS; THEY CONTROL VAST GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC BUDGETS; THEY BELONG TO IMPORTANT COMMITTEES; THEY PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GROUPS.

4. BOOK TAKES GENERALLY CRITICAL VIEW OF BEHAVIOR OF ISRAELI ESTABLISHMENT. IT IS HEAVY WITH POLITICAL GOSSIP AND ATTEMPTS TO DEMYTHOLOGIZE LABOR ZIONIST IDEOLOGY. FOR INSTANCE, BOOK DESCRIBES CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FINMIN AND SOME PRIVATE INDUSTRIALISTS. IN SUM, BOOK IS USEFUL AND ENGAGING ALTHOUGH NOT LAST STATEMENT ON EVOLVING ISRAELI POWER STRUCTURE AND POWER RELATIONSHIPS.
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